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23 February 1965

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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*Vietnam: General Khanh, to all appearances, has accepted his ouster as armed forces commander.

After intensive maneuvering over the weekend to reverse the Armed Forces Council's (AFC) decision to oust him, Khanh yesterday indicated that he was prepared to leave the country as requested by the other generals. Khanh's ultimate disposition must still be worked out by the AFC, [but preliminary indications are that he will serve initially as a "roving ambassador," possibly to be followed by his designation as ambassador to the US or UN.] as a first step he has been appointed ~~revising~~ ambassador.

Khanh is expected to leave South Vietnam later this week. In the meantime there is some chance that he may resume his intrigues from Dalat.

[Premier Quat has indicated to Ambassador Taylor that he expects General "Little" Minh's appointment as Khanh's successor to be only temporary in view of Minh's alleged unpopularity among "junior officers."]

Viet Cong military activity showed a sudden spurt following the abortive coup attempt on 20 February, but actions reported thus far generally comprised harassment, sabotage, and other varieties of small-scale guerrilla warfare. A National Liberation Front broadcast of 20 February took note of the latest coup attempt, urging its supporters to seize on this most recent manifestation of government instability to intensify their efforts in both the countryside and in the cities.

(Continued)

A preliminary US appraisal of the weapons cache discovered near the site of the Communist vessel sunk off Phu Yen Province indicates that most of the weapons and ammunition are of Chinese Communist or Czech manufacture, except for a small number of Russian carbines. All rifles and machine guns had been used and were apparently reconditioned.

Included in the weapons haul are 2,000 Mauser rifles, 100-plus Soviet carbines, 1,000 Chinese sub-machine guns and 15 Chinese light machine guns.

Hanoi announced yesterday that "tens of thousands" of youths and students are engaged in a massive emulation campaign known as the "three-ready" movement. Featuring such military "sports" as forced marches, weapons qualification firing, and grenade throwing, the movement appears aimed at increasing North Vietnamese civil defense preparedness. In Hanoi alone, some 120,000 youths allegedly have signed up for the training. Communist China last summer launched a similar campaign to build up and arm its burgeoning militia forces.

Some of the International Control Commission teams have begun withdrawing from North Vietnam at the insistence of the Hanoi government. In issuing the withdrawal demand on 13 February, Hanoi stated that it could no longer assure the safety of the team members in North Vietnam. The first teams reportedly left from Dong Hoi, Hon Gay (on the coast near Haiphong), and Lao Kay on the Sino-Vietnamese border.

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In removing the teams, the Hanoi regime has eliminated a potential source of information on any future military deployments into or within the country.

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*Sudan: Renewed pressure to increase leftist cabinet representation is delaying formation of a new government in Khartoum. The non-Communist parties who forced the resignation of the old leftist-dominated regime last week have demanded that only one Communist be included in the new cabinet. The parties' leaders, however, clearly anxious to avoid further violence and still confident they can control the new government, may soon yield and concede additional portfolios to leftist "independents."

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